

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00075 240813Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 SSM-03  
/107 W

-----115506 240818Z /14

P R 240714Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 575  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY  
COMIDEASTFOR  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 0075

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, MILI, ET, SO, DJ  
SUBJ: OGADEN WAR ACTIVITY AND POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON DJIBOUTI

REF: DJIBOUTI 0050

1. LOCAL FRENCH SOURCES INDICATE LITTLE ACTIVITY IN DIRE DAWA  
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- HARRAR ZONE DURING PAST WEEK. MOST SIGNIFICANT FACTOR  
REGISTERED IS INCREASING USE OF ALREADY DOMINANT ETHIOPIAN  
AIR FORCE. REPORTEDLY, DAYTIME USE OF MIG'S AND F-5'S IS  
DESIGNED TO INTERDICT EVERYTHING CIVILIAN OR MILITARY THAT  
MOVES, WHETHER VEHICLES, CAMELS, PEOPLE ON FOOT OR WHATEVER,  
IN SUBSTANTIAL ZONE BEHIND SOMALI LINES THROUGH TO HARGEISA.  
FRENCH REPORT THAT AIRCRAFT NORMALLY EMPLOY MACHINE GUNS AND

CANNON, BUT THAT NAPALM IS BEING USED MORE FREQUENTLY.

2. ONE MAJOR CONCERN BOTH FRENCH AND DJIBOUTI SOURCES IS THAT EXPECTED ETHIOPIAN COUNTEROFFENSIVE MIGHT FOLLOW RAILWAY LINE, THEREBY OPENING UP RAILROAD FROM DJIBOUTI FOR URGENTLY NEEDED LOGISTICAL SUPPORT. BECAUSE RAILWAY FOLLOWS ESSENTIALLY ROUTE THROUGH BARREN ROCK-STREWN PLAINS BETWEEN DIRE DAWA AND DJIBOUTI, RAILWAY RIGHT OF WAY PROVIDES EXCELLENT PATH FOR TANK-SUPPORTED ADVANCE.

3. THIS SCENARIO WOULD PROBABLY CAUSE UPHEAVAL IN DJIBOUTI AS BASICALLY SOMALI POPULATION OF DJIBOUTI TOWN WOULD NO DOUBT REFUSE FACILITATE PASSAGE ETHIOPIAN SUPPLIES. IN THE ENSUING CHAOS THE AFARS COULD THEN CALL UPON ETHIOPIANS FOR ASSISTANCE. FRENCH, HAVING NO GOVERNMENT TO DEFEND, WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO LEAVE, OR WOULD HAVE ALREADY GONE. DJIBOUTI WOULD THEN BECOME ETHIOPIAN CLIENT STATE, OR SIMPLY BE ABSORBED INTO AFAR AUTONOMOUS ZONE.

4. DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL AFAR LEADERS (SEPTTEL) INDICATE DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT AFFARS WOULD CALL ON ASSISTANCE FROM ETHIOPIA RATHER THAN ACCEPT ANY FORM OF ADDITIONAL SOMALI SUZERAINITY. THE ONLY SOLUTION WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF DJIBOUTI IS TO KEEP THE OGADEN WAR AS FAR FROM ITS FRONTIERS AS POSSIBLE.

CLARKE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
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**Draft Date:** 24 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978DJIBOU00075  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** OGADEN WAR ACTIVITY AND POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON DJIBOUTI  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PBOR, MILI, ET, SO, DJ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014